

Public Safety and Security Committee

Monday, March 18, 2013

Testimony on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

HB 6524 AAC Building Code Adoption Cycles and Duties of Building Officials

To Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Paul Costello and I am writing to submit comments specific to sections one and two of HB 6524. The IBEW represents over six thousand licensed electrical journeymen, journeywomen, and apprentices statewide, and we take great pride in our continuous effort to ensure our workforce is educated and maintains a safe work environment.

We, along with other tradespeople, have been frustrated over the years with the delay in revising CT's building codes to keep up with national standards, and given this we are unable to support sections one and two of this bill as written. However, we have met jointly with the leadership of this committee, the Department of Construction Services, and the proponents of the bill, and we are very appreciative of the proponent's decision to table this proposal and discontinue their efforts to push for a six year review cycle.

While this result is a good one, we do continue to have some concerns regarding the length of time it has taken to adopt certain revisions of the codes and the overall make-up of the Codes and Standards committee, which we feel lacks certain industry representation. In order to facilitate better relationships and prevent future disagreements related to revisions and adoption of new codes, we would request that there be a broader representation of individuals from the specific trades appointed to the Codes and Standards committee. Specifically, we ask that the committee be expanded to include representatives from the electrical, plumbing, and heating and cooling trades, respectfully. It is our opinion that this would provide for a greater level of comfort on the side of the industry as it relates to the process for adopting new codes, and we think industry input would be beneficial as such individuals are experts in the field.

The IBEW would like to thank the committee for their attention to this matter, and we welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you.

Sincerely,

Paul Costello
NECA and IBEW Local 90 JATC